



**Letters to the editor**

**Will security cameras move crime elsewhere?**  
Dear Editor

I am not a fan of street cameras but they are a feature of our time. However if we must have them it would make sense for East Finchley to be properly covered. Logically, cameras displace crime so it goes somewhere else.

Your front page article (*THE ARCHER*, January 2007) does not indicate that the south of our high street will be covered. There have been incidents at the local stores opposite the tube station, there is an ATM in the tube car park (I have suffered a 'skimming incident' at that machine) and of course there is the occasional car dangerously pushing the wrong way out of Baronsmere Road to watch for.

Unless the cameras cover this area too this end of the village becomes a softer target. I'd be interested to understand Barnet Council's rationale. Anecdotally, I heard from residents that the cameras introduced all over Wood Green Shopping City moved the street crime into the residential streets and muggings went up. Do the police and council have a plan for that all-too-likely outcome?

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Tom Bowman**  
Address supplied

**Please don't close the gate**  
Dear Editor,

I was very sad to read that a developer is building a gated community in East Finchley (*THE ARCHER*, December 2006). Going on to read an article in the same edition of *The Archer* titled 'What's so great about East Finchley?' I suggest the mixed, open, dare I say, democratic nature of East Finchley without gated housing in the heart of the commercial area, or indeed anywhere, is one of our positive points.

Is it necessary? Homes, yes. We all know how desirable East Finchley is, but gated, no thanks. It sends out all the wrong messages. It's safe here and inclusive. Let's keep it that way.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Fiona McEwan**  
Kitchener Road, N2.

**Make more of our wood**  
Dear Editor,

I have recently moved from Muswell Hill to East Finchley and would like to make an observation about Cherry Tree Wood.

In September I helped on several stalls on the day of the Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby. Apart from wonderful weather, I was totally impressed by the venue, which lent itself so well to large scale events, and I wondered why it has never been developed further.

The land to the south is on a slight incline bordered by tall trees, and if sponsorship could be organised, struck me as a wonderful natural amphitheatre for outdoor concerts.

Although the trains would pass by, I believe they are going very slowly and gently in/out of the station and the sound would not be excessively intrusive. What about some outdoor theatre there in the summer?

If large evening concerts are not feasible, what about a 'grandstand in the park' trial, using brass bands for an hour or so on a summer Sunday afternoon, with local refreshments on sale?

Some of the revenue raised should then contribute towards renovation of the dilapidated buildings in the park area, helping to raise its profile and that of East Finchley in general.

Maybe these suggestions have been tried and failed, but if so maybe it is appropriate to try to revive these activities, and perhaps it's not too late to consider some events for the coming summer which would help to put East Finchley 'on the map'?

**Yours faithfully**  
**Harriet Copperman**  
Diploma Avenue, N2

**Support a runner**  
Dear Editor,

I have been a resident of East Finchley for 20 years and I've been running for the past six or seven years.

After two rejections from the ballot entry of the Flora London Marathon I have decided to take the terrifying leap and join the many who run for charities.

I think I will be among the majority of the 200,000 entrants as I believe only 40,000 get in by ballot.

I will be running on behalf of The Children's Society along with 75 others. This is a charity that focuses on children who may be overlooked or neglected by other organizations. This includes disabled children, those in trouble with the law and, a lot lately, refugee children.

The London Marathon is on 22 April and people are able to support me by going online at [www.justgiving.com/LFMvictoria](http://www.justgiving.com/LFMvictoria).

Every donation, no matter how small, is much appreciated. In the meantime, you may see me out running in the streets of East Finchley, though not young and bounding by any means!

Thanks for your help.  
**Yours sincerely,**  
**Victoria Davenport**  
Durham Road, N2

**In search of my grandmother**  
Dear Editor,

I am looking for records of my grandmother, who lived at 27 Cherry Tree Road, East Finchley, during, and shortly after the last war. Bertram Charles and Katherine Alice Newman are known to have been there in 1941. Bertram died there sometime between 1945 and 1949 and Katherine died there at the beginning of 1952 but that bare detail is all that I know of my grandmother from 1941 until her death.

Does anybody have any information on these two people? Katherine Alice was married to another man (Ernest Carr) in Barnet Register Office in 1915, so some time between then and 1941 she became widowed or divorced and, presumably, married Bertram, who was himself married to someone else in 1922.

They must have moved to Cherry Tree Road between 1928 and 1941, but can anybody narrow that gap for me? I have family records going back into the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is a great disappointment that I know more about the early members than I do about my own grandmother. Can anybody help me? Please write to me at Penycommin, Tallylyn, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7SY.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Mike Stammers,**  
Tallylyn, Powys

**Let our children play**  
Dear Editor,

The playground stands deserted. The gates are padlocked with a sign: 'Danger. Keep out of playground'. Ironic, as the only danger here was anti-social behaviour which went on 20 years ago, leading to the gates being permanently locked.

When will Barnet Council learn that abandoning and demolishing play facilities only worsens bad behaviour in children who consequently have less to do?

This is the playground at the top end of the High Road by the North Circular flyover and the Grange Estate. Two rusting climbing frames remain that would have to be dismantled if the playground were reopened.

I believe that the slide on top of a concrete pipetunnel could be retained and new play equipment plus shock-absorbing surfaces could be installed so that children can play here once again.

The majority of people living nearby seem in favour of reopening the site and, as with Stanley Road field, which has featured a lot in *THE ARCHER*, meetings have also been held to decide what to do with it. Sadly, no progress has been made.

The only case against it is that it is near a noisy main road and the high wire fence could resemble a zoo cage. Why not plant creepers over it to hide the road and give the kids the feel of being in a jungle? Perhaps even a jungle theme for the new playground?

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Jake Eiseman-Renyard**  
Fortis Green, N2

**From pillar to post**  
Dear Editor,

Understandably, there are concerns about powerful wave emissions centred on the proposed placement of a mobile phone transmitter mast in Church Lane.

While attention has been focused on that issue, some organisation has placed tall forbidding twin masts close by the forecourt of the Five Bells pub in East End Road. Who put them there, was permission granted and by whom? What power and wavelength do they generate or absorb and what is their purpose?

My own suspicion is that both pillars are linked to the appalling increase in passenger aircraft that circulate above East Finchley. If this suspicion is correct then I'll give the front window seats at the Five Bells a miss. Oh, and welcome to Heathrow East Finchley.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Name and address supplied.**

**OBITUARY**

**Muriel Lowe** 26 Jan 1916 - 4 Nov 2006



Muriel Lowe on her 90th birthday

**A long-standing local resident, Muriel Lowe, passed away at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, last November. Muriel was the eldest of three daughters who moved with their parents John and Nellie Crook from Highgate to Durham Road in 1935.**

In her working life Muriel had various secretarial posts, first with a film company where she met many film stars, followed by jobs in local businesses. She was employed for some time at The Finchley Memorial Hospital then, until her retirement, became receptionist at an East Finchley doctor's surgery where her concern and helpful attitude made her very popular. For a brief period Muriel stood as a Liberal candidate for Finchley Council.

In 1940 Muriel married her husband Hugh, with whom she enjoyed ballroom dancing and going to the pictures on a Saturday at the Gaumont Cinema, North Finchley. After living in a small flat in her aunt's house in Western Road, they moved to the North Circular Road opposite the Glandfield Lawrence Garage where Muriel stayed following Hugh's death in 1971. Due to the development of the North Circular Road, Muriel took a flat at Homefield Gar-

dens, East Finchley, where she remained until her death.

She loved gardening and, as well as proudly cultivating her own patch, she helped and encouraged the residents around her with their gardening interests. She enjoyed a wide range of music, was an avid book reader and loved doing crosswords.

Though she lived alone Muriel was never lonely or bored. She had a cheerful outlook on life and was always concerned for others, ready to listen and to give help and advice if required. Muriel was down to earth; she liked correctness, but was not shocked by what people might say. She never lost her young outlook on life nor her interest in young people. At the advanced age of 90 Muriel still enjoyed driving her car!

Muriel attended All Saints Church, Durham Road. Her funeral took place at All Saints Church, Bishop's Stortford. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

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